

Sports

Hoppen's 25 leads Red squad to win

From Staff Reports

AURORA — The Red squad, led by center Dave Hoppen's 25 points and 8 rebounds, thrashed the White squad 73-51 in the Nebraska basketball team's annual intrasquad scrimmage here Wednesday night.

Hoppen, the Cornhuskers' all-Big Eight center, pushed his squad to a 19-point lead with 2:30 remaining in the first half.

The Whites never came closer than

15 points the rest of the game.

Nebraska coach Moe Iba said he was pleased with the way his squad played, particularly Hoppen.

"Dave's a much-improved player over last year," Iba said. "I really hope he makes All-American because he deserves it."

Hoppen, a senior, agreed with his coach. He said he's a better rebounder and has improved his inside game. He said teammates have improved also.

"I thought the team played pretty

well but we got a little tired in the first half," he said.

Iba said he was also pleased with the play of the Huskers' guards. Anthony Bailous poured in 10 points and junior Brian Carr added 12.

"The key to our basketball team is numbers," Iba said. "We've got more guards that can play this year and every year that we've had good guards, we've had good teams."

Bailous' quickness, Iba said, will be an asset to the Huskers' backcourt.

"Anthony played really well," he said. "He's got so much speed he tends to cruise. He's really going to help us."

Deak Vance, a 6-8, 210-pound junior college transfer, led the Whites with 10 points. That was encouraging, Iba said.

"Deak is a good athlete," Iba said, "but he really needs to lose some weight."

Iba said he's encouraged by his team's depth, but isn't sure how well they'll fare in a game situation.

playing in a regular ball game," Iba

said. "We did a number of things right and a number of things wrong."

The depth, Iba said, helps the Huskers when they need to substitute.

"I think we'll be able to substitute a lot more this year and not lose much," he said.

Nebraska will open its season Monday against the Czechoslovakia national team. Iba said he knows little about the Czechs, but said they have good shooters because all European teams do.

Omahans follow yellow brick road to Kansas, success

By Kevin McCoy
Staff Reporter

When the Kansas Jayhawks take the court this fall as Big Eight conference favorites and national contenders, many Nebraskans will find a special reason to follow the team's fortunes.

That is because three of the top players are from, of all places, Nebraska.

Senior Ron Kellogg from Omaha Northwest, sophomore Cedric Hunter from Omaha South and freshman Jerry Johnson from Omaha Benson will be wearing Kansas blue this season. These three were the most successful and most highly recruited Nebraska prep stars of recent years.

"Those three kids are going to be in the top seven or eight in our program," said Coach Larry Brown.

Kellogg led the Jayhawks with a 17.6 scoring average last season, earning first team all-Big Eight honors.

Brown called Hunter "our most improved player," and said Johnson should see a lot of playing time this season. Brown attended nearly all of Johnson's games last year at Benson where Johnson averaged 24.6 points and 10.3 rebounds a game. He was the only freshman the Jayhawks signed.

So how was Kansas able to land so many of Nebraska's top recruits?

Brown cited Kansas' "great tradition" and good academic reputation as two factors. He also said Lawrence's proximity to Omaha and recruits' familiarity with the Big Eight conference give Kansas an advantage over other Division I basketball powers.

Although Brown said he hasn't found playing in the Big Eight conference to be a recruiting problem, he did say the area's small population makes out-state recruiting vital. Nearby cities such as Kansas City, Denver and Omaha are important recruiting grounds, he said.

Brown said he thinks Omaha produces excellent basketball talent for a city of its size.

"It's been darn good to me," he said. "I've seen a lot of kids who can play. They turn out a lot of Division I prospects."

Kellogg said Kansas' strong tradition and the opportunity to grow away from home contributed to his decision to leave the state.

"It was one of the smartest decisions I ever made," he said.

Both Hunter and Johnson said the quality of the coaching staff influenced their decision to play for Kansas.

"They have a better coaching staff than almost all schools," Johnson said.

Hunter said Brown and the desire "to stay pretty close to home" were the main reasons he chose Kansas. He said one reason he decided to go to Kansas instead of Nebraska was that Brown promised him they would play more of a running style of basketball.

"People don't look at Nebraska as a basketball state," Hunter said. Kellogg added that Nebraska's football success probably hurts its ability to land a lot of basketball recruits because it has the reputation of being a "football school."

All three Nebraskans live in KU's Jayhawk Towers. Kellogg and Hunter even room together.

"We hang together a lot," Hunter said. Johnson said having two players from his home town has helped in adjusting to college and to major-college basketball.

"They've played a big role," Johnson said. "Whenever I have problems I can go down and talk to them."

Johnson said he gets some flak from other players because he is the only freshman on the squad, but thinks his play has earned him the respect of his teammates. However, he said Kansas' season-opening midnight practice in front of 6,000 fans was kind of intimidating for a freshman.

"I was pretty nervous," Johnson said. Hunter started 26 of Kansas' 34 games last year as ball-handling guard and averaged 6.7 points with 145 assists.

Brown said Hunter has been the Jayhawks' most impressive player in full practice.

"Whenever we scrimmage, his team always wins," Brown said.

Hunter said he worked hard in the off-season to improve his shot and his confidence.

"Last year I wasn't that confident," Hunter said. "I think a lot of teams thought they could sag off on our big men."

Kellogg spent the summer with teammate Greg Dreiling and Nebraska's Dave Hoppen competing in the World University Games in Japan. He said he played in five of six games and

averaged about 11 points per game.

"It was a great experience," Kellogg said. Kellogg said playing under international rules and being exposed to different styles of play helped develop his game.

Brown said Kellogg has potential to play in the NBA.

"He can shoot well enough, but he needs to improve his ball-handling skills," Brown said. "But he's a diligent worker."

Kellogg shot 57.6 percent from the field last season.

Kellogg said the media attention surrounding players like Wayman Tisdale and Danny Manning has given Big Eight players a lot more recognition. However, he said, the best thing he could do to improve his stock with NBA scouts would be to play in whatever role helps Kansas have the best season.

All three players said they keep close ties to Omaha and like to visit home when they get the chance. They also agreed that Omaha's high school competition prepared them for major-college basketball.

Johnson said he thinks Omaha players are even with high school players across the nation.

"I think it's based more on motivation and determination," he said.

"I think the players in Omaha are just as good as about anywhere," Hunter said.



Photo Courtesy of Kansas Sports Information

Hunter

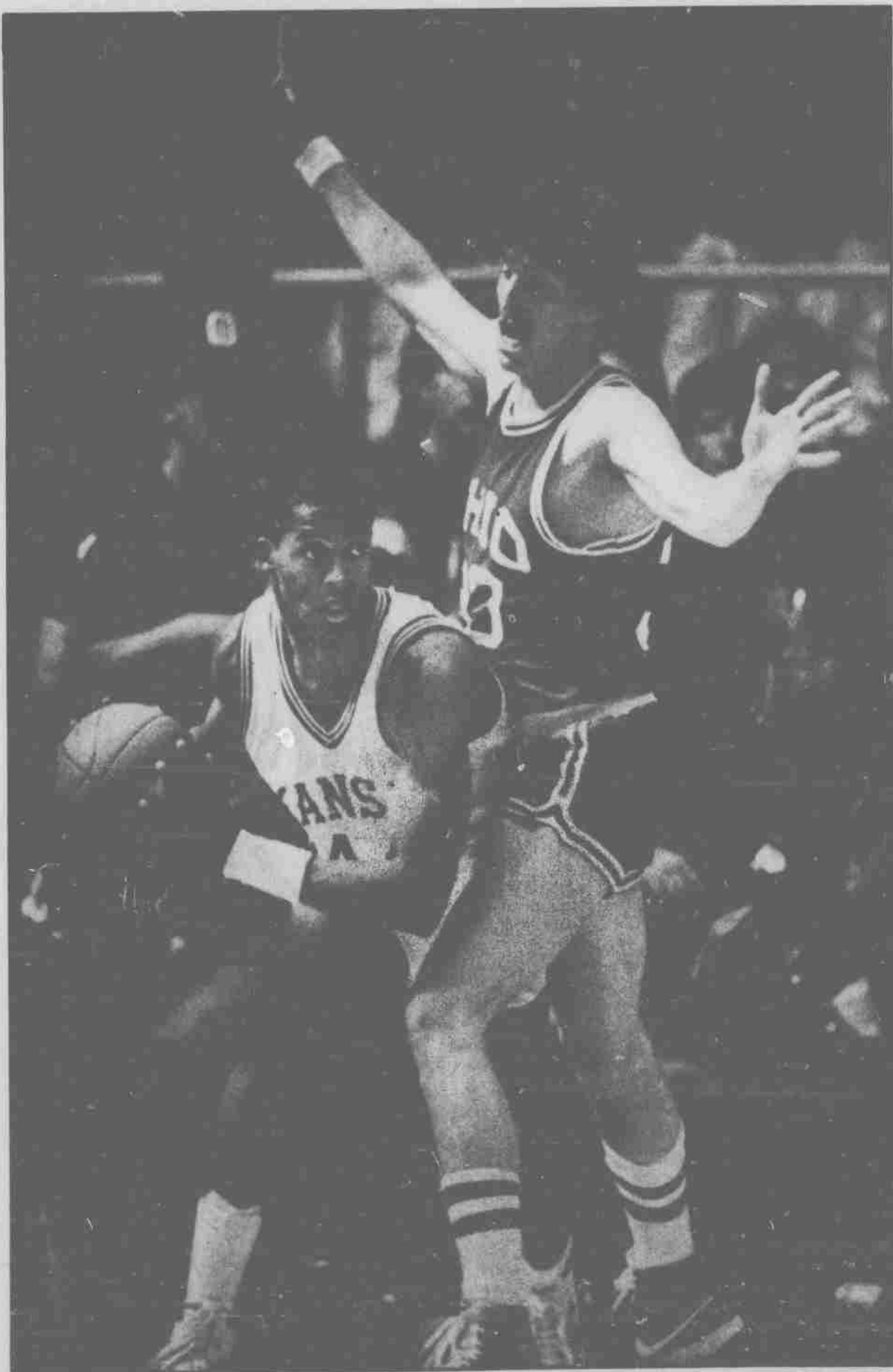


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Kellogg